

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MBFR V 00037 131031Z

43

ACTION ACDA-10

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SAJ-01 SAM-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 NSC-05 /090 W

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R 130816Z FEB 76

FM USDEL MBFR VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1415

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L MBFR VIENNA 0037

MBFR NEGOTIATIONS

FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: FEB 12 WESTERN PLENARY STATEMENT

1. THE NINETY-THIRD PLENARY MEETING OF THE MBFR NEGOTIATIONS TOOK PLACE FEB 12, WITH CZECHOSLOVAK REP (LAHODA) IN THE CHAIR. UK REP (ROSE) DELIVERED THE ONLY STATEMENT, WHICH RECAPITULATED THE WESTERN NUCLEAR OFFER AND RESPONDED TO EASTERN CRITICISM OF IT. IN ADDITION TO SUMMARIZING THE NUCLEAR INITIATIVE, ROSE MADE THE FOLLOWING MAIN POINTS:

A. THE NEGATIVE TONE AND CONTENT OF EASTERN COMMENTS SO FAR ON THE WESTERN NUCLEAR PROPOSAL SUGGEST THAT THE EAST DOES NOT YET FULLY APPRECIATE THE PROPOSAL'S SIGNIFICANCE.

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 MBFR V 00037 131031Z

B. CONTRARY TO EASTERN CONTENTIONS THAT THE WESTERN REDUCTION APPROACH STILL WOULD GIVE UNILATERAL ADVANTAGE TO THE WEST, THE NUCLEAR OFFER ADDS A MAJOR NEW ELEMENT TO THE ALLIED PROPOSALS AND WOULD INCREASE THE BURDENS FOR THE WEST, AS WELL AS THE BENEFITS FOR THE EAST, UNDER AN AGREEMENT.

C. THE BENEFITS TO THE EAST WOULD BE AT LEAST EQUAL TO THE BURDENS IT WOULD BE REQUIRED TO ACCEPT.

D. THE NEW WESTERN OFFER DOES NOT CONSTITUTE AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE TO INCLUDE NUCLEAR WEAPONS AS SUCH IN ANY REDUCTION AGREEMENT; RATHER, IT IS A ONE-TIME OFFER MADE TO GAIN EASTERN AGREEMENT TO WESTERN PROPOSALS.

E. THE EASTERN PROPOSAL FOR EQUAL PERCENTAGE REDUCTIONS DOES NOT MEET THE ESSENTIAL REQUIREMENT THAT NEITHER SIDE SHOULD DERIVE UNILATERAL ADVANTAGE AT THE EXPENSE OF THE SECURITY OF THE OTHER FROM THE COMBINED EFFECTS OF REDUCTIONS AND LIMITATIONS.

F. THE EASTERN APPROACH WOULD CONTRACTUALIZE THE PRESENT UNEQUAL GROUND FORCE RELATIONSHIP IN THE AREA AND WOULD GIVE THE EAST IMPORTANT NEW AND ENDURING ADVANTAGES AS A RESULT OF THE FACTS OF GEOGRAPHY.

G. THE WESTERN PROPOSALS, HOWEVER, DO MEET THE ABOVE-MENTIONED REQUIREMENT SINCE, WHEN EVERYTHING IS TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT, THE WEST OBVIOUSLY IS OFFERING AT LEAST AS MUCH AS IT IS ASKING.

H. THE WESTERN APPROACH WOULD LEAD TO AN EQUITABLE OUTCOME AND RESULT IN ENHANCED STABILITY WITH UNDIMINISHED SECURITY FOR EACH SIDE.

I. OBLIGATIONS WHICH OTHER WESTERN DIRECT PARTICIPANTS ARE READY TO ACCEPT UNDER A FIRST PHASE AGREEMENT SHOULD MEET EASTERN CONCERNS ABOUT THE PROPOSAL TO

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 MBFR V 00037 131031Z

REDUCE US AND SOVIET FORCES ALONE IN PHASE I.

J. THE WEST DOES NOT ACCEPT EASTERN OPPOSITION TO COLLECTIVE CEILINGS AS HAVING ANY MILITARY JUSTIFICATION AND INTENDS TO MAINTAIN THE FREEDOM TO DETERMINE THE NATIONAL COMPOSITION OF NATO DEFENSES.

K. THE WEST CONSIDERS THAT ITS PROPOSALS PROVIDE

A PRACTICAL AND EQUITABLE BASIS FOR AGREEMENT.

L. WESTERN GOVERNMENTS WILL REGARD THE REACTIONS
OF EASTERN GOVERNMENTS TO THESE PROPOSALS AS A VALID
TEST OF THEIR WILLINGNESS TO AGREE ON EFFECTIVE MEASURES
FOR STRENGTHENING SECURITY AND ENHANCING STABILITY
IN EUROPE.

2. THE FULL TEXT OF THE UK STATEMENT IS BEING SENT
BY AIRGRAM.RESOR

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